United Nations PBC/2/SLE/6

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
10 June 2008

Original: English

Peacebuilding Commission
Second session
Sierra Leone configuration
19 June 2008

Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Report of the Peacebuilding Commission on its visit to Sierra Leone.
3. Biannual review of the Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework.
4. Other matters.

08-37449 (E) 120608

United Nations PBC/2/SLE/6*

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
13 June 2008

Original: English

Peacebuilding Commission
Second session
Sierra Leone configuration
19 June 2008

Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Biannual review of the Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework and report of the Peacebuilding Commission on its visit to Sierra Leone (1-7 June 2008).
3. Other matters.

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* Reissued for technical reasons.

08-37449* (E) 130608

United Nations PBC/2/SLE/7

Peacebuilding Commission

Distr.: General
16 June 2008

Original: English

Peacebuilding Commission
Second session
Sierra Leone configuration

Report of the second mission of the Peacebuilding Commission to Sierra Leone

1 to 7 June 2008

I. Background

1. At its meeting on 10 March 2008, the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission decided that delegations of the Commission would undertake visits to Burundi, Guinea-Bissau and Sierra Leone. The mission to Sierra Leone took place from 1 to 7 June 2008.

2. The 14-member delegation was led by Ambassador Frank Majoor, the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations, in his capacity as Chairman of the Sierra Leone configuration. The delegation included the representatives of the Permanent Missions of Bangladesh, the Czech Republic, El Salvador, Liberia and Sierra Leone to the United Nations. The representatives of Germany and Sweden participated in the delegation from their capitals. The representatives of Egypt and Germany joined the mission through their embassies in Sierra Leone.

3. The mission was successful in reaching its objectives of obtaining a first-hand view of the situation in Sierra Leone and of potential challenges to peace consolidation; engaging directly with the national Government and all relevant stakeholders concerning the implementation of the Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework; preparing for the biannual review of the Framework; and focusing the attention of the international community on peacebuilding efforts in Sierra Leone.

4. The delegation met with the President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, Ernest Bai Koroma; the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Zainab Hawa Bangura; the Speaker of the Parliament, Abel Stronge; the majority and minority leaders of parliament; the Chairperson and members of the National Electoral Commission; representatives of the bilateral and multilateral partners; civil society organizations, including women's groups; the private sector; the representative of the World Bank; and representatives of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes. All stakeholders

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expressed their appreciation for the efforts of the Peacebuilding Commission and, in particular, for convening the High-Level Stakeholders Consultation on Sierra Leone on 19 May. The delegation also had an opportunity to visit a youth employment and empowerment project in the eastern part of Freetown.

5. The members of the delegation wish to reiterate their appreciation to the Government of Sierra Leone and the United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone (UNIOSIL) for their kind hospitality during the visit (for the objectives, key messages, programme and composition of the delegation, see annex).

II. Main issues and key findings

6. This is a critical time for peace consolidation in Sierra Leone. The Government of Sierra Leone has set up an ambitious reform agenda. It has also reaffirmed its commitment to the implementation of the Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework and its partnership with the Peacebuilding Commission. Although the country remains peaceful and stable, life for ordinary Sierra Leoneans continues to be extremely difficult due to food insecurity, unemployment, lack of basic services and crippling mortality rates. Furthermore, the global food crisis and rising oil prices risk undermining the efforts of the Government to provide long-awaited peace dividends and meet the high expectations of the population.

7. Food security is now at the top of the agenda of the Government of Sierra Leone, requiring the support of the international community and response strategies that consider the overall subregional context. The Government of Sierra Leone has requested support from Brazil, Canada and the United States and has already secured a commitment from Japan for additional assistance. Importantly, several stakeholders stressed that the current global food crisis also represents an opportunity for the development of the agricultural sector in Sierra Leone and potential employment generation.

A. Youth employment and empowerment

8. The delegation observed an urgent need to bridge the gap between the population's expectations for positive change and the capacity of the Government to deliver on its commitments. These expectations are highest among young people. Although the young people of Sierra Leone are one of its greatest assets, high rates of youth unemployment and disempowerment continue to represent the most acute threat to peace and stability in the country. The Government of Sierra Leone is well aware of the challenge and is trying to put in place both policy and programming initiatives to address the situation.

9. The President's vision for youth employment and empowerment includes the creation of a national youth commission to provide the necessary focused policy direction and leadership to the many agencies and departments of the Government dealing with the issues of youth. Nationwide labour centres to invest in the country's workforce and assist in job placement are also part of the vision of the President. The centres would include training as well as placement opportunities in short-term public work schemes and support to small and medium enterprise development through microfinance opportunities and partnerships with the private

sector. These efforts would be complemented by long-term employment generation strategies and overall economic growth through private sector development.

10. The Government of Sierra Leone is committed to attracting and maintaining private sector involvement in the country. However, creating an enabling environment for the private sector requires strengthening of the judiciary and, in particular, the commercial courts, land tenure reform, and access to financing and capacity-building of indigenous businesses. Several partners, namely the Department for International Development, the European Commission, and the International Finance Corporation are actively supporting such efforts. The Government of Sierra Leone has also approached the Governments of China and India for support in the area of microfinance. The Ministry of Trade and Industry, in collaboration with international partners, is also planning to convene an investment forum in the fall of 2008.

B. Local council elections

11. The local council elections to be held on 5 July represent another milestone in the consolidation of peace and democracy in Sierra Leone. The National Electoral Commission, the Political Parties Registration Commission, the Sierra Leone police and other institutions appear to be well prepared for the elections, and are supported through the elections Basket Fund, managed by the United Nations Development Programme. According to all stakeholders, the security risks for the elections are considered to be low and largely focused in the eastern and southern parts of the country. However, important electoral regulations, in particular the regulation on vote counting and tallying, are yet to be finalized and approved by the Government.

12. In general, the electoral process is well advanced, with the voter registration process and the nomination of candidates already completed. The campaigning period will officially begin on 9 June and will last until 3 July. Of 1,380 candidates for the elections, almost 17 per cent are female. A significant number of independent candidates are also contesting the elections, although 37 of the total 245 independent candidates have thus far withdrawn their candidacy. In terms of the remaining challenges, stakeholders noted the logistical difficulties, tight time frame and possible low voter turnout due to lack of sufficient voter education and awareness.

13. Following the elections, it would be critical to ensure that the Political Parties Registration Commission and National Electoral Commission receive sustained support and capacity-building. Funding for continued operations of the National Electoral Commission has been secured, whereas the Political Parties Registration Commission requires additional support after September 2008 for the work of its district monitoring groups and district forums. The National Electoral Commission is also exploring opportunities for establishing an electoral management institute to train and prepare staff for the 2012 elections. The Association of Electoral Boards of Africa has developed a curriculum for such trainings. Finally, the regulatory framework for the elections needs to be strengthened in advance of the next general elections.

C. Poverty reduction strategy paper and donor coordination

14. The Government of Sierra Leone is in the process of developing a second-generation poverty reduction strategy paper for the period 2008-2010. A draft of the paper is expected by the end of June, with a final draft ready for a Consultative Group meeting in the fall of 2008. The poverty reduction strategy paper will focus on generating economic growth and consolidating peace. The emphasis of the paper will shift from saving lives and social protection to growth creation and economic recovery. It will draw on the "agenda for change" articulated by the President at the Bumbuna presidential retreat in early January, which brought together ministers, deputy ministers and other senior officials. While recognizing the interlinkages between peace and development, the poverty reduction strategy paper will focus on growth sectors, infrastructure development and human security issues.

15. The success of the poverty reduction strategy paper will hinge on the availability of adequate capacities and resources. Drawing on previous experience, stakeholders stressed that the next poverty reduction strategy paper must be well prioritized and sequenced. There is also the need to ensure that the priorities of the poverty reduction strategy paper and the Peacebuilding Framework are mutually reinforcing and complementary. Several donors stressed the importance of ensuring broad consultations on the poverty reduction strategy paper, while also noting the time constraints and the pressure to finalize the draft as soon as possible. The absence of a poverty reduction strategy paper since January 2008 has hindered the ability of some donors to release and commit funding.

16. Since coming into office, the Government has been reviewing the existing aid coordination structure in Sierra Leone, which was headed by the Office of the Vice President and included quarterly Development Partnership Committee meetings. Consequently, regular meetings between the Government of Sierra Leone and many of its international partners have been suspended while some meetings are occurring between the Government and the four budget support donors. According to some international partners, this situation is beginning to have a negative effect on the amount of aid resources coming into the country.

17. The Government of Sierra Leone needs to finalize and communicate its decisions on the aid coordination structure as soon as possible. The donor community, on the other hand, must be guided by the Government's vision as articulated in the poverty reduction strategy paper and sector strategies and organized through an aid coordination structure and regular meetings, including informal meetings involving all partners. The international partners should further harmonize their engagement frameworks and channel their support, to the extent possible, though budget support and sector-wide multi-donor funding mechanisms. Current United Nations Development Programme basket funds need to be reviewed and enhanced to allow for greater participation by donors.

18. Furthermore, in an environment where more than 50 per cent of the Government's budget and over 80 per cent of development spending come from international assistance, it is difficult to ensure ownership and long-term planning by the Government. As a result, increasing domestic revenue generation and strengthening of the private sector, including through greater involvement of the diaspora community, have become key priorities for the Government of Sierra Leone.

D. Energy sector development

19. The delegation observed a great deal of optimism in the energy sector. The emergency energy plan is under implementation, providing a critical peace dividend to the population. The completion of the Bumbuna hydroelectric project is on course and expected by the end of 2008. The National Power Authority is restructuring and increasing its revenue generation. However, due to the rising price of oil, up to 60 per cent of the budget of the National Power Authority is directed to fuel purchase. Several stakeholders noted that with the emergency energy plan well under way, the Government of Sierra Leone should develop an overall energy sector strategy and set up a coordination structure to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the many departments and agencies involved in energy generation, transmission and distribution.

E. Justice and security sector reform

20. The delegation met with the National Human Rights Commission and was pleased to note that the Commission is now fully operational, with 28 staff members and a strategic plan to guide its work. The Commissioners called on the Government of Sierra Leone to formally set up the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Follow-up Committee as stipulated by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Act. At the same time, they noted that the Government of Sierra Leone has appointed the National Commission on Social Action to serve as a focal point for the implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission recommendation on reparations. The National Human Rights Commission is a member of the Special Court Legacy Committee and is actively working on ensuring that the archives of the Special Court and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission are well preserved and maintained in Sierra Leone. However, most of the activities of the National Human Rights Commission, as well as the salaries of its staff, are funded exclusively through the Peacebuilding Fund. This raises concerns about the sustainability of the Commission and requires a commitment from the Government of Sierra Leone and other international partners to support its work in the long term.

21. On issues of gender equality and women's empowerment, stakeholders raised concerns about the lack of implementation of the three gender bills adopted last year. The bills are not well known to law enforcement agencies and the general public. Efforts to simplify the provisions of the bills and to conduct awareness-raising and trainings with women's groups and the Sierra Leone police and judiciary need to be supported and prioritized.

22. In addition to the urgent need to implement the gender bills, the civil society groups also stressed the need to conduct broad consultations on the report of the Constitutional Review Commission which was submitted to the President in January 2008.

F. Capacity-building

23. Capacity-building remains a top priority for the Government of Sierra Leone and must be an integral part of all international support to the country. A key role of the United Nations in Sierra Leone is capacity-building. Further efforts need to be

made in order to arrive at a common understanding of what capacity-building entails and what are the more effective ways of transferring knowledge, skills and technology to the local actors. In addition, the capacity of the United Nations itself and its offices in Sierra Leone needs to be reviewed and possibly restructured to better support the evolving programmatic and sector-wide approach of the Government of Sierra Leone.

24. The United Nations in the country is in a transitional period, which provides opportunities to strengthen its capacities, review its organizational structure and put in place an integrated peacebuilding office to support the efforts of the Government of Sierra Leone for peace consolidation. In the next few months, under the leadership of an acting Executive Representative of the Secretary-General, the United Nations will focus its efforts on support to the local council elections, transition from UNIOSIL to the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office and support the Government of Sierra Leone and other stakeholders in streamlining and harmonizing their objectives and priorities for peacebuilding.

25. On the issues of the Peacebuilding Fund, the Government of Sierra Leone and several partners acknowledged the important contributions of the Peacebuilding Fund in some critical areas, including during the 2007 elections, and support to the justice and security sectors. However, they also highlighted the challenges in implementation of some of the approved Peacebuilding Fund projects and stressed the need to address these as soon as possible. They called for a review of the Peacebuilding Fund process in Sierra Leone, greater government ownership of the projects, stronger technical review of the project proposals, and broadening of the implementation partners.

G. Subregional issues

26. Several stakeholders stressed the importance of continued analysis and review of the subregional dimensions of peacebuilding. The Presidential Summit of the Mano River Union, held in Monrovia on 14 May, and the extension of its membership to Côte d'Ivoire, were noted as positive developments in that regard. The Summit agreed on the need to convene regular follow-up meetings at the sectoral level, especially among the security sector agencies. The Summit also committed to addressing the effects of the global food crisis at the subregional level.

III. Recommendations

27. The delegation made the following recommendations:

The Government of Sierra Leone

(a) Ensure that the next poverty reduction strategy paper is not only conflict-sensitive but also provides linkages with the Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework. Drawing on previous experience, the poverty reduction strategy pap... should be more focused, with clearly prioritized objectives and well-sequenced and targeted activities;

(b) Ensure consultations with all relevant stakeholders on the report of the Constitutional Review Commission;

(c) Follow up on the decisions of the Presidential Summit of the Mano River Union, held on 14 May, and convene regular ministerial and sectoral meetings on issues of common concern, especially among the security actors;

(d) Finalize and communicate its decisions on the aid coordination architecture in Sierra Leone, and, in consultation with all relevant partners, develop an aid policy;

(e) Redouble efforts for domestic revenue-generation in order to reduce aid dependency and strengthen national ownership and sustainability of the reform initiatives.

The United Nations and international partners

(a) Develop a shared understanding of how best to ensure sustainability of efforts to build the capacity of national institutions, including by ensuring close coordination with the efforts to develop the private sector;

(b) Strengthen their support to the Government of Sierra Leone in ensuring implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission recommendations and the establishment of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Follow-up Committee within the National Human Rights Commission as stipulated by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Act;

(c) Redouble their efforts to support the vision of the President of Sierra Leone for youth employment and empowerment;

(d) Continue to support the implementation of the emergency energy plan and encourage the Government of Sierra Leone to develop an overall strategy for energy sector development with a clear coordination structure;

(e) Provide critical support to the Government of Sierra Leone to mitigate the effects of the global food crisis and closely monitor the situation to ensure that it does not undermine the ongoing peace consolidation efforts, while at the same time taking advantage of the opportunities presented to strengthen the agriculture sector;

(f) Continue to provide maximum support for the elections and ensure the institutionalization of the Political Parties Registration Commission and other electoral institutions after the local council elections;

(g) Better prepare for the country-specific meetings and engage more directly with the Peacebuilding Support Office and the country-specific meeting chair on setting the agenda and preparing background materials.

The Peacebuilding Commission

(a) Support the secretariat developed within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to coordinate and ensure Government leadership in the Peacebuilding Commission process;

(b) Use its international legitimacy to "speak truth to power" to the Government of Sierra Leone by stressing the need for better priority-setting and sequencing of priorities, to the international partners on the need to be more coordinated and to streamline their various assistance frameworks and to the potential donors by urging them to support Sierra Leone;

(c) Provide greater support to the advocacy and resource mobilization efforts of the Government of Sierra Leone;

(d) Advocate with the Security Council and the relevant agencies, funds and programmes, to ensure that the United Nations in Sierra Leone has adequate capacity to support the work of the Peacebuilding Commission in a coherent and effective manner;

(e) With the support of the Peacebuilding Support Office, strengthen its outreach and communications efforts;

(f) Jointly with the Government of Sierra Leone at the biannual review meeting, consider adding flashpoint issues in addition to the five priority areas for peacebuilding with such flashpoint issues taking into account emerging developments such as the food crisis.

Annex

Note on the mission of the Peacebuilding Commission to Sierra Leone: objectives, key messages, programme and composition of the delegation, 1-7 June 2008

I. Background

1. The Peacebuilding Commission and the Government of Sierra Leone adopted a Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework on 12 December 2007. The Framework represents an innovative instrument for partnership and mutual accountability, guided by the principles of national ownership and sustained engagement. It captures specific actions that the Government of Sierra Leone and the Peacebuilding Commission have committed to undertake in the short to medium term to address the remaining challenges for peace consolidation in the country.

2. Since the adoption of the Framework, the work of the Commission has focused on generating buy-in for and implementation of the commitments contained in the Framework, broadening the donor base in Sierra Leone, and triggering new activities or upscaling of existing activities in peacebuilding priority areas.

3. The advocacy and resource mobilization efforts of the Peacebuilding Commission and the Government of Sierra Leone in support of the Framework culminated in a High-Level Stakeholders Consultation, held in New York on 19 May. The meeting brought together senior representatives of the Government of Sierra Leone, Member States, the United Nations, the private sector, and civil society. Participants discussed specific areas where support is required to meet the commitments contained in the Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework. Challenges to forging partnerships were also explored and innovative ideas for mobilization of resources, such as utilization of pooled funding and sector-wide strategies, were highlighted. The meeting also highlighted progress made by the Government of Sierra Leone in moving ahead on the implementation of a number of commitments contained in the Framework. As a result of the meeting, several stakeholders expressed commitments to continue or increase their support to Sierra Leone in line with the Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework.

II. Objectives

4. At its 10 March meeting, the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission decided that delegations of the Commission would undertake missions to Burundi, Guinea-Bissau and Sierra Leone. Following discussions with the Government of Sierra Leone, the mission to Sierra Leone has been confirmed for 1 to 7 June 2008.

5. The mission would have the following primary objectives:

(a) Obtain a first-hand view of the situation on the ground and potential challenges for peace consolidation;

(b) Engage directly with the national Government and all relevant stakeholders on the ground concerning the implementation of the Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework;

(c) Prepare for the biannual review of the Framework scheduled for 19 June;

(d) Focus the attention of the international community on peacebuilding efforts in Sierra Leone.

III. Key messages

6. The mission agreed on the following key messages:

(a) Commend the Government of Sierra Leone, the United Nations and all relevant stakeholders for progress made in the implementation of a number of commitments contained in the Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework. These successes were highlighted at the High-Level Stakeholders Consultation, held on 19 May, and must be consolidated in the next few months;

(b) Sierra Leone is at a critical phase of peace consolidation requiring continued leadership of Government and sustained and strengthened engagement of the international partners. The engagement of the Peacebuilding Commission with Sierra Leone, through the Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework, aims to strengthen the leadership role of the Government and broaden and enhance the support provided by the international partners for peace consolidation;

(c) The Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework is one of the primary engagement and partnership instruments between the Government of Sierra Leone and the international community. The commitments contained in the Framework are central to ensuring lasting and self-sustaining peace and must be implemented by the Government of Sierra Leone, the Peacebuilding Commission, the United Nations, bilateral and multilateral partners and all other relevant stakeholders;

(d) In order to ensure greater national ownership and effectiveness of the peacebuilding process in Sierra Leone, the international support, to the extent possible, should be provided through direct budget support or through sector-wide programmes and multi-donor funding mechanisms. Existing multi-donor funding mechanisms should be strengthened and well-publicized to enable greater participation by non-resident donors;

(e) Under the leadership of the Government of Sierra Leone, additional support should be provided to broaden private-public partnerships and create the enabling environment for business sector development, domestic revenue generation and wealth creation, to ensure that peace in Sierra Leone is sustainable and irreversible;

(f) Recognizing the central role of the United Nations in supporting the Government of Sierra Leone and other stakeholders in their engagement with the Peacebuilding Commission and the implementation of the Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework, every effort should be made to ensure that the United Nations system in Sierra Leone has the leadership, capacity and resources to do so effectively. In that context, the appointment of an acting Executive Representative of the Secretary-General and efforts to strengthen the United Nations country team should be welcomed;

(g) In the context of the finalization of the poverty reduction strategy paper 2008-2010, every effort should be made to ensure linkages with the implementation of the Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework and the work of the Peacebuilding

Commission. Regular informal meetings between the Government of Sierra Leone and the international partners could be helpful in that regard;

(h) Recognizing that youth employment and empowerment are central to peace consolidation in Sierra Leone, a prioritized, costed and coherent national youth employment and empowerment strategy should be developed under the leadership of the Government of Sierra Leone and in consultation with all relevant stakeholders;

(i) Youth employment and empowerment issues should be considered in the context of the overall economic recovery of the country and the development of the agricultural sector and the private sector in particular. The international actors, especially the United Nations, should provide timely and high-quality support and advice to the Government of Sierra Leone on the development and implementation of youth employment and empowerment programmes and policies;

(j) In the lead-up to the local council elections scheduled for 5 July 2008, every effort should be made to ensure that the elections are held on time and in a peaceful and fair manner. In this context, initiatives aimed at fostering greater national reconciliation, enhanced inter- and intra-party dialogue and greater participation of youth and women in the electoral process should be upscaled and supported.

IV. Provisional programme

Monday, 2 June

9.30 p.m.	Arrival in Freetown

Tuesday, 3 June

Time	Meeting
8.30-9.30	Meeting with the acting Executive Representative of the Secretary-General
10.30-11.00	National Electoral Commission and Political Parties Registration Commission
11.30-12.45	Speaker of Parliament and Majority and Minority Leaders
13.00-14.00	Lunch
14.30-17.00	Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Finance, Education, Youth and Sports, Justice, Agriculture, Energy, Defence and Labour and Employment representatives of the Sierra Leone Police, and the Office of National Security, and the Anti-Corruption Commissioner
19.00	Dinner

Wednesday, 4 June

9.00	Field visits: YANTOL youth project, East Freetown Bumbuna hydropower construction site, northern region
19.30	Dinner hosted by acting Executive Representative of the Secretary-General Michael Schulenburg

Thursday, 5 June

Time	Meeting
9.00-10.30	United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone and United Nations country team
10.30-12.00	International partners and the donor community (including Mano River Union)
12.30-13.00	President Koroma
13.00-14.00	Lunch
14.00-15.00	Strategic Planning Unit Office of the President and Development Assistance Coordination Office
15.30-16.00	Press briefing
19.00	Dinner hosted by Zainab Hawa Bangura, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Friday, 6 June

Time	Meeting
9.00-10.30	International Finance Corporation/Business forum Meeting with the business community
11.00-12.00	National Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone
12.00-13.00	Civil society/international non-governmental organizations/non-governmental organizations
13.00-13.45	Lunch
13.45-14.45	Debriefing with the acting Executive Representative of the Secretary-General
16.00	Depart for the airport

V. Composition of the delegation

Delegation

Frank Majoor, Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations (Chair of the Sierra Leone configuration)

Milton Nathaniel Barnes, Permanent Representative of Liberia to the United Nations

Ismat Jahan, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations

Karel Komarek, Minister Counsellor of the Czech Republic to the United Nations

José Ernesto Estrada Cerna, Minister Counsellor of El Salvador to the United Nations

Anders Wallberg, Head of the United Nations/Security Policy Section, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sweden

Dr. Rolf Krause, Head of Africa Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Germany

Ambassador Designate to the United Nations (Sierra Leone)

Members who joined the delegation through their Embassy in Freetown or the region

Egypt
Germany
Guinea-Bissau
Russian Federation

* * *

Sulay-Manah Kpukumu, First Secretary (Sierra Leone)
Bartjan Wegeter, First Secretary (Netherlands)
Dominik Bartsch (Peacebuilding Support Office)
Vina Nadjibulla (Peacebuilding Support Office)

United Nations PBC/2/SLE/8

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
20 June 2008

Original: English

Peacebuilding Commission
Second session
Sierra Leone configuration
19 June 2008

Conclusions and recommendations of the biannual review of the implementation of the Sierra Leone Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework

1. The Government of Sierra Leone and the Peacebuilding Commission adopted the Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework on 12 December 2007. The Framework is one of the primary engagement and partnership instruments between the Government of Sierra Leone and the international community. The commitments contained in the Framework are central to ensuring lasting and self-sustaining peace and should be implemented by the Government of Sierra Leone, the Peacebuilding Commission, the United Nations, bilateral and multilateral partners and all other relevant stakeholders.

2. The first biannual review of the Framework resulted in the following recommendations.

3. **The Government of Sierra Leone:**

(a) Continue the implementation of the emergency energy plan and develop an overall energy sector strategy and coordination structure;

(b) Provide support for the work of the National Human Rights Commission and ensure timely follow-up to the implementation of the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission;

(c) Ensure that, in addition to its pro-growth emphasis, the next poverty reduction strategy paper is conflict sensitive, provides linkages with the Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework and contains well prioritized and sequenced objectives and activities;

(d) Undertake consultations with all relevant stakeholders on the report of the Constitutional Review Commission;

(e) Follow up on the decisions of the Presidential Summit of the Mano River Union held on 15 May 2008 and participate in the regular ministerial and sectoral meetings of the Mano River Union on issues of common concern;

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(f) Finalize and communicate decisions on the aid coordination architecture in Sierra Leone and, in consultation with all relevant partners, further develop a national aid coordination policy;

(g) Redouble efforts to step up domestic revenue generation in order to enhance effective national ownership and sustainability of reform initiatives and reduce aid/budgetary support dependency.

4. **The United Nations and international partners:**

(a) Support the Government of Sierra Leone in streamlining objectives of its various strategic frameworks, especially the poverty reduction strategy paper, and develop a shared understanding of how best to ensure sustainability of efforts to build the capacity of national institutions, including by ensuring close coordination with the private sector development efforts;

(b) Support the Government of Sierra Leone in ensuring implementation of the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the establishment of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Follow-up Committee within the Human Rights Commission, as stipulated by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Act;

(c) Support the creation of the National Youth Commission and labour centres to address issues of youth employment and empowerment;

(d) Continue to support the implementation of the emergency energy plan and encourage the Government of Sierra Leone to develop an overall strategy for energy sector development with a clearly defined coordination mechanism and structure;

(e) Provide immediate support to the Government of Sierra Leone, to mitigate the effects of the global food crisis and the rising oil prices and closely monitor the situation to ensure that it does not undermine the ongoing peace consolidation efforts;

(f) Continue to provide maximum support for the local council elections and ensure the institutionalization of the Political Parties Registration Commission and other national institutions after the local council elections;

(g) Enhance preparations for the Peacebuilding Commission country-specific meetings and engage more directly with the Peacebuilding Support Office and the Chair of the country-specific meetings on agenda setting and preparation of background materials.

5. **The Peacebuilding Commission:**

(a) Support the secretariat established within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to coordinate and ensure the Government's leadership in the Peacebuilding Commission process;

(b) Encourage greater international support for the Government's efforts to mitigate the effects of the global food crisis and the rising oil prices and advocate for the strengthening of the agricultural sector and private sector development;

(c) Encourage Sierra Leone's international partners to streamline and better coordinate their bilateral and multilateral assistance frameworks;

(d) Provide greater support for the advocacy and resource mobilization efforts of the Government of Sierra Leone, especially in preparation for the next Consultative Group meeting;

(e) Encourage non-traditional donors and additional partners to consider engagement in Sierra Leone, to the extent possible, through multi-donor funding mechanisms and support to sector-wide programmes;

(f) Advocate with the Security Council and the relevant agencies, funds and programmes, to ensure that the United Nations system in Sierra Leone has adequate capacity to support the work of the Peacebuilding Commission in a coherent and effective manner;

(g) Strengthen outreach and communications efforts, with the support of the Peacebuilding Support Office.

United Nations PBC/2/SLE/9

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
23 June 2008

Original: English

Peacebuilding Commission
Second session
Sierra Leone configuration

Progress report on the implementation of the Sierra Leone Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework

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I. Introduction

1. The Peacebuilding Commission and the Government of Sierra Leone adopted the Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework (PBC/2/SLE/1) on 12 December 2007. Six months later, the Framework is widely recognized as one of the principal engagement and partnership tools between the Government of Sierra Leone and the international community. As part of the follow-up to the implementation of the commitments contained in the Framework, and in recognition that the Framework is a "living document", the Government and the Peacebuilding Commission have developed the present progress report. The report takes stock of the progress made and challenges encountered by all stakeholders in the implementation of the Framework and contains recommendations on the required next steps.

II. Trend analysis and risk assessment of peacebuilding

A. Youth employment and empowerment

2. Youth unemployment and marginalization continue to represent a threat to peace consolidation in Sierra Leone. The Government of Sierra Leone, with the support of its international partners, has made a strong commitment to address the situation of youth and has established various institutions, policies and programmes to do so. However, owing to the fragmentation of actors and the proliferation of small projects, such efforts have not generated the desired impact. As a result, the Government has announced plans to create a national youth commission to provide the necessary policy direction and leadership to the many agencies and departments of the Government and the international actors addressing issues of youth. The Government also plans to set up district-level labour centres to invest in the national workforce and to assist in job placement. There is now growing recognition among all partners that short-term efforts for employment must be complemented by long-term employment-generation strategies and overall economic growth through private sector development. In addition, youth empowerment efforts must closely involve youth organizations and contain targeted interventions to address the particular needs of young women and girls.

B. Justice and security sector reform

3. The security sector reform has been recognized as one of the major successes of post-conflict peacebuilding in Sierra Leone. The institutions of the sector are well established, with clear lines of authority and a functioning coordination structure. The performance of the security institutions in the 2007 national elections and in the preparatory process for the 2008 local council elections has demonstrated their growing capacity and credibility in the eyes of the local population and international observers. However, the sector continues to be heavily dependent on international support, undermining the sustainability of the reform initiatives. In addition, the security sector must play a more active role in facilitating economic growth, increasing revenue generation and supporting anti-corruption initiatives. For example, the sector could play a significant role in enhancing border security and border management, thus reducing the significant revenues currently lost through diamond and gold smuggling.

4. Access to justice continues to be a challenge for the majority of Sierra Leoneans. In the context of the Justice Sector Development Programme, and with the support of the Peacebuilding Fund, concerted efforts are ongoing to improve the provision of justice services, to reduce the backlog of court cases, to address overcrowded conditions in prisons and to provide training to justice sector personnel. The Presidential task force constituted to identify the causes for the delays in justice delivery submitted its report in January 2008. The recommendations of the report have been incorporated in the recently approved Justice Sector Reform Strategy.

C. Consolidation of democracy and good governance

5. The successful conclusion of the presidential and parliamentary elections in 2007 and the peaceful and democratic transfer of power in Sierra Leone are significant achievements in the consolidation of democracy and good governance. The new Government has embarked on a number of measures aimed at strengthening accountability and public sector performance. In particular, encouraging reforms are being implemented by the Anti-Corruption Commission. However, additional efforts are needed to strengthen local governance institutions, in particular by clarifying the relationship between the local councils and the traditional authorities. Greater efforts are also needed to foster national reconciliation and enhanced inter-party and intra-party dialogue. National institutions such as the Political Parties Registration Commission, the National Democracy Commission and the Parliament should play a greater role in such efforts.

D. Capacity-building

6. The limited capacity of the Government of Sierra Leone, as well as other national actors, represents a major obstacle to peacebuilding in Sierra Leone. The Government, has prioritized capacity development at all levels, especially in the areas of human resources development and civil service reform. The international community is also committed to ensuring that all of its activities in the country have a capacity-building component. The United Nations in particular specializes in capacity-building of national actors and institutions. However, there is still a lack of conceptual clarity on what constitutes effective capacity-building and how best to ensure the sustainability of reform efforts.

E. Energy sector

7. In the last few months, impressive developments have been observed in the energy sector. The sector was identified as an urgent priority of the new Government. Guided by the Government's vision and prioritization, the partners of Sierra Leone have been able to contribute effectively to the implementation of the emergency energy plan for the Western Area. With these efforts under way, greater attention must be paid to the development of an overall energy sector strategy and coordination structures to bring together the various departments and agencies working on energy production, transmission and distribution. The Government of

Sierra Leone projects that by the end of 2008 the energy situation will be out of the emergency phase.

F. Subregional dimension of peacebuilding

8. The leaders in the Mano River subregion are demonstrating a greater appreciation for the strong linkages between their countries and an increased commitment to a subregional approach to solving issues of peace, security and development. This is particularly encouraging given the region's recent turbulent history. The Mano River subregion has been one of the most violent and politically unstable parts of the world. As recently as October 2004, nearly half of the total number of United Nations peacekeepers deployed in the world was in the subregion. It is, however, also encouraging to note that some of the best outcomes of United Nations involvement in conflict situations have taken place in that subregion. By now it is well understood that conflict and instability in one country in the subregion will have significant impact on the others. Recent activities of the Mano River Union, notably the Heads of Government Summit, held in Monrovia on 14 and 15 May 2008, have been encouraging, and must be further supported through capacity-building of the Mano River Union secretariat.

III. Review of mutual commitments

A. Commitments of the Government of Sierra Leone

9. As noted by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sierra Leone, "Sierra Leone attaches great importance to the Framework and its speedy implementation as a deterrent to relapse into conflict." Over the last six months, the Government of Sierra Leone, with the support of the United Nations and other partners, has made significant progress in implementing several commitments contained in the Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework. In particular, the Government has made significant progress in the areas of anti-corruption, good governance, planning for the local council elections, energy sector development and the justice and security sector reform. Concerted additional efforts are needed to meet the commitments on youth empowerment and employment and capacity-building. Annex I to the present report contains a detailed report on the implementation of the Government's commitments and the necessary next steps.

1. Consolidation of democracy and good governance

10. In order to foster a common vision and create a culture of accountability and good governance, President Koroma launched an "agenda for change" at a retreat attended by all Government ministers and senior officials. The following focus areas were identified at the retreat: (a) energy and water supply; (b) transportation: roads, air; (c) youth unemployment; (d) growth sectors: (i) agriculture; (ii) mining; (iii) fisheries and marine resources; (iv) tourism; (e) social services: (i) education; (ii) health care; (iii) affordable housing; (f) capacity development: (i) public sector; (ii) local government; (iii) private sector; (iv) justice system. As a result, a commitment was made to develop performance contracts for all ministers and senior officials.

11. The President has instituted a "zero tolerance policy for corruption" and has launched an attitudinal change campaign, clearly signalling his resolve to seriously address the issues. The President has also made national reconciliation and unity a personal priority and has on several occasions invited members of the opposition to accompany him on official overseas travel.

12. Consistent with the commitments contained in the Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework, a revised National Anti-Corruption Strategy was approved by the Cabinet and forwarded for consideration by the Parliament. The revised strategy strengthens the independence of the Anti-Corruption Commission. The Government of Sierra Leone has also pledged to introduce a Public Members Bill in Parliament that will confer prosecutorial powers on the Commission to enable them to prosecute cases directly. The need to separate the Office of the Attorney-General from that of the Minister of Justice has also been acknowledged in the report of the Constitutional Review Commission. The Anti-Corruption Commission has undertaken promising internal reforms and has developed a strategic plan for 2008-2010.

13. Preparations for the local council elections are under way, with the required financial resources pledged or committed through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) managed elections basket fund. The ward boundaries delimitation process has been completed and was adopted by the Parliament despite some concerns raised by the minority Sierra Leone People's Party. The voter registration process and the nomination of candidates were also undertaken successfully. However, the Government of Sierra Leone is still reviewing electoral regulations, in particular, the regulation on vote counting and tallying. The Political Parties Registration Commission is active in ensuring that the political parties adhere to a code of conduct, thus contributing to a peaceful and orderly electoral process. Following the elections, it will be critical to ensure institutionalization of the National Electoral Commission and the Political Parties Registration Commission and the reform of the regulatory framework for the elections.

2. Justice and security sector reform

14. The Sierra Leone Justice Sector Reform and Investment Plan 2008-2010 was launched under the leadership of the President of Sierra Leone in February 2008. The strategy is costed, prioritized and well sequenced, providing a good model for the development of other sector-wide strategies, especially for youth employment and empowerment. In line with the Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework, the justice sector strategy, developed with the support of the Department for International Development (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), does not try to address all justice sector challenges, but rather focuses on specific initiatives that can be undertaken in a three-year time frame. The Justice Sector Coordination Office has been set up in the Ministry of Justice to facilitate the implementation of the strategy. However, the overall responsibility for its implementation rests with the Justice Leadership Group, composed of the Minister of Justice, the Minister of Internal Affairs and the Chief Justice. The strategy is costed at $30 million over three years, of which $4.5 million is currently unfunded. Resource allocation across the sector will be provided in the context of the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework and the normal budgeting process of the Government.

15. Additional progress has also been made with the support of the Peacebuilding Fund, especially in addressing the backlog of cases and training of the legal executives. Furthermore, some positive steps have been made towards building the capacity of the prosecutorial system by supporting the training of over 100 police prosecutors and investigators (a more detailed discussion of Peacebuilding Fund projects is provided in para. 30).

16. The Constitutional Review Commission has submitted its report for consideration by the Cabinet, to be followed by consideration by the Parliament. A Cabinet subcommittee has been constituted to study the report and advise the full Cabinet on the actions to be taken. The report contains 136 amendments to the 1991 Constitution, 15 of which require a national referendum for approval. The United Nations and other actors remain engaged with the Government of Sierra Leone to ensure that the final document addresses the key recommendations and is consistent with the Lomé Peace Accord and the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and takes a modern, development-oriented approach to the organization of the State administration at all levels.

17. Consistent with its commitment in the Framework, the Government of Sierra Leone has announced its intention to reduce the size of the national armed forces to 8,500 from the current strength of 10,500. This reduction proposal comes after a comprehensive core review undertaken by the Government with the support of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The downsizing process will need to be carefully monitored to ensure reintegration of former soldiers into civilian life and the job market. A company of soldiers is currently being trained to participate in the standby force of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

18. The National Human Rights Commission is now fully operational, with 28 staff. The Commission is currently working on a comprehensive report on the state of human rights in Sierra Leone, consistent with its statutory mandate. Importantly, the mandate for the Commission also includes follow-up on the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The Government of Sierra Leone has made a commitment to assume the operational costs of the Commission, including the salary of core staff, after the completion of the ongoing Peacebuilding Fund support. Meanwhile, the Government continues to provide, albeit in minimal amounts, support to cover some operational costs. The Government, in collaboration with the United Nations, has put in place a mechanism to report on human rights activities in Sierra Leone. These activities will be jointly coordinated with the help of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the National Human Rights Commission.

19. Gender-based violence, limited participation in decision-making and endemic poverty are critical challenges to gender equality and the empowerment of women in Sierra Leone. Inclusion of women and youth in the governance of the country, improved local revenue generation and sustainability of the State remain critical to peace consolidation.

3. Youth employment and empowerment

20. In the last few months, the Government of Sierra Leone, with the support of its partners, has undertaken efforts to revitalize the Youth Employment Scheme, the National Steering Committee on Youth Employment and Empowerment and the

Youth Basket Fund, managed by UNDP. The Youth Employment Scheme and the activities of the Steering Committee and the Basket Fund experienced significant difficulties in 2007. In order to address those challenges, in early 2008, the Department for International Development was requested to conduct an institutional review of the scheme and make recommendations to strengthen it. The results of the review were shared at a workshop on 10 April 2008 which brought together representatives from the donor community, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and a number of Government of Sierra Leone line ministries. The review identified two main weaknesses in the Youth Employment Scheme strategy: (a) its focus on the creation of short-term employment interventions which have created little long-term positive impact on the prospects of youth in the labour market; (b) its lack of connection or coordination with the private sector development activities and (c) relatively little engagement of the Scheme with the business community. The overall recommendation of the review was for the Scheme to shift its primary focus away from short-term supply-side and socially designed interventions to focus on medium to longer-term demand-driven activities which are appropriately linked to labour market needs and targeted towards future growth sectors in the economy.

21. Coordination on issues of youth employment and empowerment among the ministries, donors and United Nations agencies has also been a serious challenge in the past year. Recently, efforts have been made to empower the National Steering Committee and make it into an effective forum for discussion of youth issues. The Ministry of Youth, Sports and Education hosted an inaugural Steering Committee meeting on 24 January 2008 at which the Government of Sierra Leone reconfirmed its commitment to youth employment, requested assistance from the donors and promised its support to speed up the implementation of activities. On 8 May 2008, at a Steering Committee meeting, the disbursement of $600,000 to microfinance institutions from the Peacebuilding Fund was approved. The funds are being used to increase the access of vulnerable youth to microcredit. On 5 June, at the Steering Committee meeting, the operational framework of the Youth Employment Scheme and the development of short-term and long-term strategies were discussed.

4. Capacity-building

22. The Government of Sierra Leone and its international partners need to agree on a comprehensive civil service reform package. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation has recently undergone a personnel review in order to create a professional diplomatic and career service. The President has also set up a Public Service Reform Committee to look into reforming the civil service, especially in the areas of policy formulation and implementation capacity. The Government has stressed that without a serious purpose-oriented public service with a strategic focus, it will be impossible for the political machinery to succeed. As a result, the Government has put a premium on capacity-building efforts at all levels. It is hoped that this strategy will enable the public sector to become one of the drivers of Sierra Leone's progress.

5. Energy sector

23. Since the adoption of the Framework in December 2007, there has been remarkable improvement in the energy sector. In the Western Area, power generation has increased from 5 megawatts to 15 megawatts, representing an

increase of about 300 per cent. The Government of Sierra Leone has also secured funding for the completion of the Bambuna hydroelectric power station by the end of 2008. However, additional resources are still needed to rehabilitate the transmission and distribution networks. In May 2008, the Government convened a meeting of all relevant actors in the energy sector. Such coordination meetings must continue, resulting in the development of a well-costed and sequenced energy sector strategy.

6. Subregional dimension of peacebuilding

24. At the 18th session of the Mano River Union Summit, held in Monrovia on 14 and 15 May 2008, Côte d'Ivoire formally joined the Union. The Summit also considered issues of common interest and concern relating to the revitalization of the Mano River Union secretariat, the consolidation of peace, security and stability, and the challenges posed by the global food crisis. In particular, the leaders agreed that the Mano River Union secretariat should take on critical peace and security matters within the subregion, including the control of small arms and light weapons, and harmonization of legislation on arms control. To address the growing food crisis, the leaders decided, inter alia, to promote subregional cooperation in managing the agricultural chain of input supply, production and marketing, as well as to focus on common geographical areas of high vulnerability and risk within the subregion. The Government of Sierra Leone is also looking at the ECOWAS military strategy for rapid deployment capacity to be set up in Sierra Leone.

B. Commitments of the Peacebuilding Commission

25. In the last few months, the Peacebuilding Commission has made significant strides towards fulfilling its commitments within the Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework. Individually and collectively, Peacebuilding Commission members have supported the Government of Sierra Leone by raising international awareness, mobilizing resources and providing technical support consistent with the priority areas of the Framework. Twenty-one country-specific meeting members are active in Sierra Leone either bilaterally or through multilateral channels. Through their engagement, notable support has already been provided in the priority areas of good governance, justice and security sector reform, and energy sector development. Several country-specific meeting members, such as Japan, Norway and Sweden have also recently increased their support for the country. However, additional and more targeted efforts are needed to support the implementation of commitments related to youth empowerment, regional cooperation and capacity-building. Annex II to the present report summarizes progress made under each of the commitment areas and outlines the necessary next steps. A mapping of all programmes in the five priority areas of the Framework supported by the country-specific meeting members was undertaken by the Peacebuilding Support Office and is being regularly updated.

26. Immediately following the adoption of the Framework, the Sierra Leone country-specific meeting agreed on a six-month workplan for resource mobilization, outreach and advocacy. Subsequently, the Chairman of the Sierra Leone country-specific meeting undertook bilateral meetings with many member States and representatives of the international financial institutions, and visited capitals (Washington, D.C., London, Brussels, Berlin, and The Hague) to garner political

and financial support for the Framework and its implementation. The Framework was also transmitted to all relevant stakeholders through a joint letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sierra Leone and the Minister for Development Cooperation of the Netherlands.

27. In order to broaden Sierra Leone's donor base, the country-specific meeting Chairman convened meetings with representatives of the private sector, non-traditional donors and private foundations. These advocacy efforts culminated in a High-Level Stakeholders Consultation on the implementation of the Framework, held on 19 May in New York. Moving forward, the country-specific meeting would need to ensure that its advocacy efforts feed into the Sierra Leone Consultative Group meeting scheduled for the fourth quarter of 2008.

28. In addition to advocacy and resource mobilization, in the first half of 2008, the country-specific meeting also focused on the issues of support to local council elections, fostering of national reconciliation and inter-party and intra-party dialogue, and the implementation of the energy sector emergency plan.

29. In order to obtain first-hand information on the status of the implementation of the Framework and to raise international attention for Sierra Leone, a nine-member Peacebuilding Commission delegation visited the country from 1 to 7 June. The visit highlighted the progress made in the country and the need for continued international support for national reconciliation, greater political dialogue and more robust economic growth and job creation.

30. The visit further reaffirmed the conclusions of the 19 May High-Level Stakeholders Consultation, namely that support to the efforts of the Government, to the extent possible, should be provided through direct budget support and sector programmes. In order for such assistance to be effective and targeted, the Government of Sierra Leone needs to develop sector-wide strategies, complete the drafting of the next poverty reduction strategy paper and revitalize in-country donor coordination mechanisms. In support of the lead role of the Government of Sierra Leone, the United Nations would need to maintain an integrated presence in the country with significantly strengthened capacity to provide high-quality technical advice and capacity-building support.

C. Roles and responsibilities of the United Nations in support of the Framework

31. The United Nations system in Sierra Leone, in accordance with the mandate of the United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone (UNIOSIL), has been actively engaged in support of the Government in the implementation of the Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework. United Nations efforts have been particularly effective in the areas of justice and security sector reform, preparations for the local council elections and the capacity-building of the National Human Rights Commission. Annex III to the present report provides additional details on implementation of United Nations commitments. The United Nations in Sierra Leone is currently undergoing a transition from UNIOSIL to an integrated Peacebuilding Support Office. This transition period provides further opportunities to strengthen the capacities of the United Nations to provide more targeted and effective support to the Government of Sierra Leone.

32. In the justice sector, with the support of the Peacebuilding Fund, the United Nations has provided much-needed logistical support, including vehicles, computers and furniture. The Backlog Courts established under the Justice Sector Project have resolved 400 of an estimated 700 total backlog cases. To date, more than 100 judicial officers have undergone computer training. A six-month training programme for 20 legal executives was completed in the first week of June. Similarly, the training of 100 police prosecutors is now in progress. Magistrates have been assigned in all the districts and new judges have been appointed to the High Court and the Supreme Court. Notwithstanding these efforts, the justice sector continues to face challenges characterized by the delays in justice delivery, lack of adequate manpower in the judiciary and in the Ministry of Justice, logistical constraints of the police and poor prison conditions, including overcrowding.

33. The United Nations has provided capacity-building and has supported the operationalization of the National Human Rights Commission. Over 28 staff members have been recruited and trained, various operational tools have been finalized and sent for legislative process and necessary logistics have been procured. Development of a five-year Strategic Action Plan for the Commission with clearly defined and costed priorities is also in progress. In collaboration with UNIOSIL, the Commission held a two-day consultative conference on the status of implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission recommendations and identified a number of strategies to facilitate the process. The Commission is also facilitating the formulation of a national action plan for human rights. A strategy for the formulation of the plan has been drafted and is being reviewed through a consultative process. The main challenge facing the Commission now is ensuring sustainability of its activities and long-term funding.

34. In order to strengthen the Family Support Units of the Sierra Leone police, the Police Training Division, with the support of the United Nations, embarked on a project to create policies on sexual exploitation, sexual abuse and sexual harassment and on gender mainstreaming. In May 2008, the two monumental policies were approved by the police executives. The next objective of the project will be to develop training modules and to conduct training workshops for the police force. Funding for this project was made possible by a grant from the Government of Norway.

35. In line with the commitments of the Framework to enhance Sierra Leone's participation in the United Nations peacekeeping operations, UNIOSIL has assisted and continues to assist the Sierra Leone police in preparing their officers to take part in the United Nations predeployment assessment. To date, the United Nations has assisted, mentored and prepared 20 Sierra Leone police officers currently deployed to the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur. In addition, in June 2008, the United Nations will conduct a second predeployment assessment of 88 Sierra Leone police officers in order to establish an eligibility list of officers available for United Nations peacekeeping deployment.

36. Although the Sierra Leone police, with the assistance of the United Nations and Department for International Development (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), has made tremendous strides to provide its officers and recruits with quality housing, a large number of officers and recruits live in substandard and deplorable conditions. In order to address this problem, the United Nations, in consultation with key members of the Sierra Leone police

Executive Management Board, submitted a proposal to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Germany. In 2008, the Government of Germany approved a €1.4 million project to rehabilitate seven dormitories and barracks and one police station. The United Nations is working with both the Sierra Leone police and the German Government to expedite the completion of the project. In the lead-up to the 2008 local council elections, United Nations police advised and mentored the Sierra Leone police in the development of a national security operational plan and budget for every phase of the elections. In order to improve police accountability, the United Nations Police Professional Standards Adviser developed, organized and conducted training for 890 Sierra Leone police officers in the areas of ethics, code of conduct, human rights, discipline and regulations.

D. Roles and responsibilities of the international partners

37. The international community in Sierra Leone has been supporting the Government of Sierra Leone in the implementation of the Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework. In the context of the finalization of the second-generation poverty reduction strategy paper, Sierra Leone's development partners have also been actively engaged in the development of a national aid policy in line with the Paris Declaration, through their participation in the Donor Harmonization Task Force. In addition to the significant direct budget support provided to the Government of Sierra Leone by the four major partners, namely, the Department for International Development (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), the European Union, the African Development Bank and the World Bank, a number of donors have continued to support the country in funding the various priority areas. The United States of America and Germany have continued to support interventions in the area of youth employment and empowerment. In the justice and security sectors, the Department for International Development (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) and the International Military Assistance Training Team continue to play a lead role, providing significant support, including in the implementation of the Justice Sector Development Programme and security sector reform strategies. Funding for the local council elections has been provided through generous support from a number of donors, especially the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the European Union, Japan, Ireland and Norway, to the UNDP-managed elections basket fund, while other partners, such as the United States, also funded special election-related activities, such as support for women's participation. Responding to an urgent request from the Government of Sierra Leone, the European Union, the Department for International Development, the African Development Bank, the World Bank and Italy have provided significant support for the completion of the Bambuna hydropower project and the implementation of the emergency energy plan. Other countries, such as China and Japan are also supporting the energy sector.

IV. Overall assessment of progress to date and emerging issues

38. Significant progress has been made in the implementation of the Framework in the short time since its adoption. Notwithstanding these impressive developments, most notably in the areas of justice and security sector reform, anti-corruption activity, energy sector development and local council elections, there are a number

of challenges involved in the implementation of the Framework which must be addressed in the next few months.

39. The overall economic situation in Sierra Leone remains fragile. Furthermore, the global food crisis and rising oil prices risk undermining the efforts of the Government to provide long-awaited peace dividends and meet the high expectations of the population. President Koroma has stressed that starting in June 2008, agricultural development and food security will become the top priority of the Government. The Government has already requested additional support in this area from Brazil, Canada and the United States.

40. As the preparations for the local council elections have demonstrated, Sierra Leone remains divided along ethnic and geographic lines, requiring intensified efforts for national reconciliation and unity. Additional efforts are also needed to strengthen the national dispute resolution mechanisms. The Parliament has an important role to play and needs to be supported in a comprehensive and integrated manner.

41. The Government of Sierra Leone is in the process of developing a new poverty reduction strategy paper. A first draft is expected at the end of June. All stakeholders will need to ensure that the drafting of the paper takes into account the provisions and commitments of the Framework. The success of the poverty reduction strategy paper will hinge on the availability of adequate capacities and resources. Drawing on previous experiences, the paper must be well prioritized and sequenced and finalized as soon as possible. The absence of a poverty reduction strategy paper since January 2008 has hindered the ability of some donors to release and commit funding.

42. Since coming into office, the Government has been reviewing the existing aid coordination structure in Sierra Leone, which was headed by the Office of the Vice-President and included quarterly Development Partnership Committee meetings. Consequently, regular meetings between the Government of Sierra Leone and many of its international partners have been suspended, while some meetings are occurring between the Government and the four budget support donors. The Government needs to finalize and communicate its decisions on the aid coordination structure as soon as possible. The international partners, on the other hand, need to further harmonize their engagement frameworks and channel their support, to the extent possible, through budget support and sector-wide multi-donor funding mechanisms. Current multi-donor funding mechanisms need to be reviewed and enhanced to allow for greater donor participation.

43. In the security sector, there is growing concern regarding the increased use of Sierra Leone as a transit country for narcotics. A Government of Sierra Leone inter-agency committee comprising the Office of National Security and the police has been set up to address the issue. The international community, and particularly the United Nations, needs to provide additional support in this area.

44. Gender equality and women's empowerment must be given additional attention in the implementation of the Framework. In particular, law enforcement agencies and the judiciary need to conduct training on the recently adopted gender bills to ensure their full use and implementation. Efforts to simplify the provisions of the bills and to conduct awareness-raising and trainings with women's groups and the Sierra Leone police and judiciary need to be supported and prioritized.

Annex I

Implementation of the commitments of the Government of Sierra Leone

A. Youth employment and empowerment

Commitments	*Status*	*Next steps*
1. Develop and implement targeted programmes for youth employment and empowerment, including through literacy, vocational training programmes and civic education programmes	Currently there are 24 projects addressing issues of youth employment and empowerment. They include the establishment of micro- and macrofarms, youth enterprise development schemes and employment in public works Additional resources are becoming available for programming in this area through the Peacebuilding Fund and the Youth Basket Fund, which is managed by the United Nations Development Programme	*Support to Youth in Agriculture* will include continued support to individuals and youth groups with skills or currently engaged in agricultural production and processing *Youth Agricultural Farm Scheme* will provide support to production centres for young people to receive training for a specific period while contributing to the production process
2. Promote efforts to strengthen youth organizations and increase the participation of youth in decision-making, paying particular attention to the needs of young women and girls	The Government of Sierra Leone has initiated discussions to create a national youth commission in order to provide better support to youth organizations and clear polices on youth employment and empowerment. A national consultation forum on the establishment of the Commission was held on 20 and 21 May 2008, bringing together a wide range of stakeholders	Establish a National Youth Commission and fully revitalize the Youth Employment Scheme secretariat by December 2008
3. Revise and implement the National Youth Policy	A task force has been set up to facilitate the review of the National Youth Policy	Finalize by December 2008 the review of the National Youth Policy and start implementation, after endorsement by the Parliament and Cabinet
4. Review and revise the Youth Employment Scheme in order to benefit from the most effective programmes for youth employment generation and empowerment	A steering committee has been set up to look at the Youth Employment Scheme and fast-track its implementation	Support the development of a youth livelihood scheme for former mining regions, which would combine a short-term public works scheme with the development of longer-term livelihoods for youth through the development of agricultural cooperatives

Commitments	*Status*	*Next steps*
5. Support the participation of young men and women as candidates and voters in the 2008 local council elections	Efforts have been made to encourage women and young people to take part in the local council elections, both as voters and candidates. However, just 17 per cent of the candidates for the local council elections are female	Encourage political parties to increase the participation of women as candidates in the next elections, support efforts towards the development of special measures to increase the participation of women and young people in decision-making

B. Justice and security sector reform

Commitments	*Status*	*Next steps*
1. Develop a plan for, and embark on, timely implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission	The Presidential inaugural speech noted such a plan as a key priority. The Human Rights Commission is now operational and provides some follow-up to implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The National Commission for Social Action has also been mandated to follow up on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission recommendations on reparations	Develop an action plan for the implementation of the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Set up a Truth and Reconciliation Commission follow-up committee within the National Human Rights Commission
2. Ensure inclusive, participatory and transparent legislative and constitutional reform processes, including through support for the efforts of the Law Reform Commission and the Constitutional Review Commission	In January, the Constitutional Review Commission submitted its report to the President. A cabinet subcommittee is currently reviewing the report	Conduct national consultations with all relevant stakeholders on the report of the Constitutional Review Commission
3. Provide additional support to the Family Support Units of the police to adequately address sexual and gender-based violence and other crimes against women and children	The Sierra Leone police Training Division, with the support of the United Nations, developed its first-ever policies on sexual exploitation, sexual abuse and sexual harassment and gender mainstreaming	Develop training modules and conduct training workshops for Sierra Leone police trainers to ensure that all Sierra Leone police officers are trained in the new policies

Commitments	*Status*	*Next steps*
4. Establish an Independent Police Complaints Review Board aimed at preventing police excesses or misbehaviour and improve accountability, professional standards and police-community relations	Sierra Leone police committed to the establishment of the Review Board	Follow-up action required
5. Ensure timely and full implementation of the laws on the registration of customary marriages and divorce, domestic violence and the devolution of estates	Some efforts are under way to raise awareness about the bills among the law enforcement community and the general public. However, the implementation of the bills has been slow owing to lack of capacity	Ensure that common messages and training materials are developed on the bills and provided to the law enforcement agencies and women's rights groups
6. Provide additional support for the work of the national Human Rights Commission	The national Human Rights Commission is now fully operational. It has 28 staff and is currently working on a national action plan for human rights and a five-year strategic plan	Explore opportunities for sustainable funding support for the work of the national Human Rights Commission
7. Implement the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces Core Review Programme, giving attention to the size and the terms and conditions of service, to ensure that the armed forces are affordable and effective	The Government of Sierra Leone has committed to reduce, in phases, the size of the armed forces from 10,500 to 8,500 by 2010, including through redundancies and natural attrition	Provide support for job placement for armed forces personnel leaving the service as a result of the reduction in the size of the armed forces

C. Good governance

Commitments	*Status*	*Next steps*
1. Ensure adequate preparations for the local council elections in 2008 through increased political dialogue and support to the National Electoral Commission and the Political Parties Registration Commission	Preparations for local council elections are well on track, with voter registration completed	Well in progress
2. Consolidate democratic governance by strengthening governance institutions, especially local governance institutions	In line with the decentralization process, functions of some of the line ministries and departments have been devolved and staff made available to the local councils. However, acceleration of the process is required to make noticeable changes in their functioning increase effectiveness. The next important phase is the improvement of service delivery at the local level	Further steps to be taken following the upcoming local council elections
3. Ensure and support greater participation by women in national decision-making and political processes, especially in the 2008 local elections	Multi-stakeholder consultations under way with the support of the United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone and other partners, including the United States Agency for International Development, National Democratic Institute, and civil society, to increase women's participation in political and electoral processes and decision-making	
4. Review the Local Governance Act of 2004 and clarify the roles and responsibilities of local councils and traditional authorities	Task force set up to review the Local Governance Act of 2004 has concluded desk reviews	Nationwide awareness-raising regarding the findings of the review
5. Develop and support programmes for civic education and participation and greater information-sharing between the Government and the people	A communications strategy was developed by the Ministry of Information with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The ongoing programme Enhancing the Interaction and Interface between Civil Society and the State to Improve Poor People's Lives provides a forum for increased civic education and participation by non-State actors	Develop a comprehensive information and communications technology strategy that will ensure constant information-sharing and dialogue between the Government and the people

Commitments	Status	Next steps
6. Review the Anti-Corruption Strategy (2000) and develop a holistic strategy which gives the Anti-Corruption Commission independent powers to prosecute and takes into account the need for capacity-building efforts	A revised anti-corruption strategy has been developed and launched by the President. Monitoring and enforcement services will also be expanded and improved	Decentralize the operations of the Anti-Corruption Strategy. Develop a decentralized operations manual and a case profiling and management framework, re-institute the in-house case review committee and stakeholder workshop on the decentralization plan; improve the image of the Anti-Corruption Strategy
7. Separate the positions of the Attorney-General and the Minister of Justice	A draft bill is before Parliament for approval	The timetable and process need to be agreed upon
8. Review the Core Minerals Policy and related regulations to improve the governance and management of natural resources, including on current contracts and revenue collection, to prevent smuggling and illicit trade and to ensure participation at the local and community levels	The Review the Core Minerals Policy has been concluded. The Government has also set up a task force to review existing mining agreements and concessions	The new mining and mineral acts to be endorsed by Parliament

D. Capacity-building

Commitments	Status	Next steps
1. Review civil service reform proposals and undertake a comprehensive reform of the service, including the Senior Executive Service, ensuring greater participation of and enhanced career opportunities for women and young people	A public service reform committee has been established under the office of the President to fast-track the reform of the entire public service	A governance and civil service reform programme will be implemented in order to revitalize the civil service through various activities, including implementation of the findings from the management and functional reviews to rationalize structures, functions, procedures and staffing in ministries, departments and agencies New regulations and rules and a civil service code together with a

Commitments	*Status*	*Next steps*
		comprehensive pay and grading reform, and a public sector reform strategy will be introduced
2. Accelerate the capacity-building of local councils so that they can take responsibility for the devolved functions from line ministries	The decentralization secretariat has conducted a series of training sessions to build the capacity of the local councils	Continue training and empowering local councils
3. Facilitate and support capacity-building initiatives for the private sector and civil society, especially women's and youth organizations, which contribute to peace consolidation, reconciliation and community-based socio-economic recovery and reconstruction	The Government of Sierra Leone has made private sector development, especially through greater linkages with the diaspora community, a key priority. The Government is also supportive of the capacity development initiatives aimed at strengthening civil society engagement	Convene an investment forum in the fourth quarter of 2008 with the active participation of the private sector in Sierra Leone and in the diaspora community
4. Develop a strategy for holistic support to the Sierra Leone Parliament	The Parliamentary Service Commission has been established through an Act of Parliament. A consultant is expected to develop in the near future the structure and functions of newly created departments and to draw up conditions of service to attract qualified staff	Develop a comprehensive capacity-building programme for support to Parliament
	A capacity-building project has been initiated by UNIOSIL in collaboration with the Inter-Parliamentary Union for support through the Peacebuilding Fund	

E. Energy

Commitments	*Status*	*Next steps*
1. Develop and implement an emergency plan for improving electricity provision and distribution in the Western Area and Freetown	An emergency plan for the provision of electricity in the Western Area is currently being implemented	Ensure the sustainability of this plan and fast-track the completion of the Bumbuna electric project
2. Elaborate a short-to-medium-term comprehensive energy sector-wide strategy	The Government of Sierra Leone is in the process of setting up a coordination forum for the energy sector actors. The first meeting of the group was held on 8 May	In preparation for the Consultative Group meeting, develop a comprehensive energy sector strategy

F. Subregional

Commitments	*Status*	*Next step*
1. Fully participate in and support initiatives of the Mano River Union and other organizations for subregional peace consolidation, with a special focus on initiatives aimed at building confidence and cooperation among border communities and generating youth employment	The Government of Sierra Leone was an active participant in the Mano River Union Presidential Summit, held in Monrovia on 14 and 15 May 2008. Sierra Leone has also encouraged regular meetings of the security actors of the Mano River Union members to deal with common cross-border concerns	Follow up on the decisions of the Presidential Summit, especially as they pertain to addressing the effects of the global food crisis
2. Support the capacity-building of the Mano River Union secretariat	The Government of Sierra Leone committed to support the Mano River Union secretariat at the Mano River Union Presidential Summit, held on 14 and 15 May	Follow-up action required

G. Peacebuilding Commission

Commitments	*Status*	*Next steps*
1. Utilize existing coordination mechanisms to support implementation of the present Framework and raise awareness of the work of the Peacebuilding Commission	The Government of Sierra Leone has been reviewing the aid coordination structures in Sierra Leone. As a result, regular meetings between all donors and the Government have not taken place	Finalize and communicate decisions about the aid coordination structure and convene regular meetings with all of the international partners
2. Encourage and facilitate documentation and sharing with other post-conflict countries of the lessons learned from Sierra Leone's experience in restoring and building peace	The Government of Sierra Leone has provided regular lessons from Sierra Leone's experience of restoring and building peace in Peacebuilding Commission meetings as well as meetings of other international bodies	

Annex II

Implementation of the commitments of the Peacebuilding Commission

A. General commitments

Commitments	*Status*	*Next steps*
1. Maintain its engagement with Sierra Leone for a period of three years and jointly review continued engagement after 2010	The Peacebuilding Commission continues to be actively engaged with Sierra Leone	Develop a workplan for July through December 2008
2. Support the efforts of the Government and the people of Sierra Leone for peace consolidation consistent with the present Framework	The Peacebuilding Commission has engaged in advocacy and resource mobilization efforts to support the Government and the people of Sierra Leone	Support and participate in the next Consultative Group meeting in the fourth quarter of 2008. Continue advocacy, outreach and resource mobilization efforts by the Chairman of the country-specific meeting and other members
3. Support the implementation of the present Framework within the context of the governing bodies of international institutions	The Netherlands, as the country-specific meeting Chair, and the Government of Sierra Leone transmitted the Framework through a joint letter seeking support for its implementation from all relevant stakeholders, including the United Nations Executive Boards	Meet with the chairmen of the relevant Executive Boards from July to December 2008
4. Advocate for a sustained partnership and an enhanced dialogue between the Government of Sierra Leone and its international partners, including through efforts to increase the number of international partners supporting peace consolidation efforts in Sierra Leone	The Peacebuilding Commission has undertaken such advocacy efforts, especially in organizing the 19 May High-level Stakeholders Consultation. Country-specific meeting members such as Germany, Japan and Sweden, in particular, have been intensifying their engagement with the country	By December 2008, encourage two new partners to support Sierra Leone
5. Support the development of a Sierra Leone national aid policy to ensure effective and timely implementation of aid effectiveness policies and good practices, such as the Paris Declaration	The 19 May High-level Stakeholders Consultation encouraged the Government of Sierra Leone to develop a National Aid Policy. The Peacebuilding Commission stands ready to support these efforts in preparation for the next Consultative Group Meeting	Urge the Government of Sierra Leone to develop an aid policy and work on the creation and further strengthening of the aid coordination architecture. Advocate with international partners on support for the national aid policy

Commitments	*Status*	*Next steps*
6. Galvanize attention and sustained levels of financial resources and technical assistance to support the implementation of the present Framework. This may include the development of multi-donor sector-wide funding mechanisms, such as multi-donor trust funds	The Peacebuilding Commission successfully advocated for additional resources for the local council elections and the energy emergency plan. It has also advocated for the strengthening of existing multi-donor funding mechanisms and the creation of new ones	By December 2008, support the full operationalization of the Youth Basket Fund and the capacity-building fund
7. Encourage effective coordination of the United Nations and other actors on peace consolidation issues consistent with the present Framework	The country-specific meeting Chair briefed the Security Council and advocated for the formation of an Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone to encourage greater coordination and coherence of the United Nations system on the ground. The country-specific meeting Chairman has encouraged the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other United Nations actors to consider strengthening and restructuring their country offices	Support greater coordination of the United Nations by encouraging joint programming and promoting linkages between the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, the Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework and other national planning documents
8. Support the efforts of the Government and the people of Sierra Leone, taking into account existing instruments, such as the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative and the Kimberley Process, by advocating for appropriate action in the context of the engagement of the relevant stakeholders, in ensuring national ownership for effective, transparent and sustainable exploitation and management of Sierra Leone's natural resources	Three country-specific meeting members (Department for International Development, the European Community and the United States) are actively supporting the Government of Sierra Leone in the area	Engage in advocacy efforts in support of the Government of Sierra Leone
9. Integrate a subregional dimension in its engagement with Sierra Leone, notably through enhanced partnerships with the countries in the subregion and support for the Mano River Union and its secretariat	The Peacebuilding Commission has regularly engaged with the Mano River Union secretariat and encouraged greater participation of ECOWAS, the Mano River Union and regional member States in its work. The Peacebuilding Commission visits to Sierra Leone have included meetings with	By December 2008, the country-specific meeting Chairman to meet with the ECOWAS and the Special Representative of the European Union Presidency for the Mano River Union to discuss collaboration in the context of the Framework

Commitments	*Status*	*Next steps*
	representatives of member States from the region and the Mano River Union secretariat	
10. Support national research and learning institutions to conduct research and to collect and share, at the national, regional and international levels, lessons learned and best experiences related to peacebuilding	The Peacebuilding Commission has invited national scholars from Fourah Bay College to participate in its meetings. The Peacebuilding Commission delegations to Sierra Leone have also met with the representatives of academia	By December 2008, identify additional institutions and partners for support and encourage partnerships and exchanges between learning institutions in Sierra Leone and members of the country-specific meeting
11. Encourage tangible contributions to support Sierra Leone in its peacebuilding efforts and implementation of the present Framework through individual and collective actions by all relevant stakeholders	Twenty-one members of the country-specific meeting (African Development Bank, Economic Community of West African States, European Community, International Monetary Fund, Organization of the Islamic Conference, United Nations, World Bank, China, Egypt, France, Germany, India, Ireland, Japan, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States) have been active in Sierra Leone	By December, identify two additional partners

B. Youth employment

Commitments	*Status*	*Next steps*
1. Support capacity-building of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports to ensure mainstreaming of youth concerns	Three members of the country-specific meeting (Irish Aid, United Nations Development Programme and Sweden) are active in this area	Support the establishment of the national youth commission and the revision of the National Youth Policy
2. Support the Government's efforts towards the generation of youth employment	Eight members of the country-specific meeting (European Community, German Agency for Technical Cooperation, Irish Aid, UNDP, United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone, World Bank, Japan, United States) are active in this area	Encourage donor interest in the Youth Basket Fund and highlight and promote effective programmes for employment generation and empowerment
3. Support the scaling up of existing vocational, literacy training and civic education programmes	Several members of the Peacebuilding Commission (Ireland, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Nations) are supporting projects in this area	Develop a list of effective vocational training and civic education programmes by December 2008

C. Justice and security sector reform

Commitments	*Status*	*Next steps*
1. Support the implementation of the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in addressing the root causes of conflict	The Peacebuilding Commission has encouraged the Government of Sierra Leone to develop an action plan for the implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission recommendations. The European Community, the United Nations, Ireland and the United Kingdom are the most active country-specific meeting members in that area	Convene a thematic meeting on the implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission recommendations to follow up on the development of an action plan and the work of the Human Rights Commission in that area
2. Support the work of the Sierra Leone Special Court	Ten country-specific meeting members (the European Community, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg,	Continue support to the Special Court activities

Commitments	*Status*	*Next steps*
	Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, the United States) have provided regular support to the Special Court	
3. Support capacity-building initiatives for the armed forces and the police, in particular to enhance Sierra Leone's participation in United Nations peacekeeping operations	Continued support is being provided by the United Kingdom, the United States and the United Nations in this area	Broaden the donor support for the police and the armed forces
4. Broaden donor support for the Justice Sector Development Programme	The Peacebuilding Commission has highlighted the justice sector reform and investment plan as a critical strategy for additional support to the sector	By December 2008, identify additional partners to fill the $3 million gap in the justice sector investment plan
5. Support additional management training and capacity-building for mid-level management of the Sierra Leone police	The United Kingdom, the United States and UNIOSIL have been active in this area	Seek technical assistance and broadening of the donor base
6. Provide technical assistance in support of Sierra Leone courts and in support of the capacity-building of traditional courts	The Peacebuilding Commission has encouraged support to the justice sector development programme and the newly created justice sector strategy and investment plan	Seek support from the Commonwealth and other country-specific meeting members in the area

D. Good governance

Commitments	*Status*	*Next steps*
1. Support Sierra Leone's efforts to promote accountable democratic governance and rule of law	The Peacebuilding Commission has encouraged and supported the Government of Sierra Leone in its efforts to foster democratic governance through its regular meetings and visits. Country-specific meeting members have supported the efforts of the National Anti-Corruption Commission and the development of the new anti-corruption strategy and action plan	Support strengthening of the local council institutions following the local council elections

Commitments	*Status*	*Next steps*
2. Support the work of the Human Rights Commission, the National Electoral Commission, the Political Parties Registration Commission, the National Commission for Democracy and other national institutions	Support to national institutions has been a key issue in country-specific meeting discussions and was highlighted at the 19 May consultation. Most country-specific meeting members active in the country are supporting efforts in this area	Provide continued support to the efforts of the Political Parties Registration Commission, especially at the district level, following the July 2008 elections

E. Capacity-building

Commitments	*Status*	*Next steps*
1. Support the Government's programmes to address the immediate socio-economic needs of the population in accordance with the Sierra Leone Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper and the Millennium Development Goals, and to develop basic services and infrastructure, including water, electricity and roads, as essential conditions for peacebuilding	Country-specific meeting members have been supportive of these efforts in line with the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper and other national plans	Advocate in support of Sierra Leone at the 22 September meeting on the Millennium Development Goals in New York
2. Support capacity-building of the Sierra Leone Parliament	Several country-specific meeting members have increased their support to the Parliament and are in the process of developing more coordinated support structures, approaches and programmes	Encourage the development of an overall support strategy for the Parliament. Encourage support for the Parliamentary Service Commission
3. Support capacity-building for civil service reform, including the Senior Executive Service	Several members of the country-specific meeting are supporting capacity-building of various ministries and departments. UNDP has proposed the creation of a capacity-building trust fund	Encourage contributions to the capacity-building trust fund. Seek greater clarity from the Government of Sierra Leone on the plans to restructure and strengthen the civil service
4. Support capacity-building to enhance the Government's efforts in the management of natural resources, in particular the Ministries of Marine and Mineral Resources	Some country-specific meeting members, including the Department for International Development, the European Community, UNDP and the United States, have supported the efforts of the Government of Sierra	Encourage additional technical assistance and South-South cooperation in strengthening the capacity of relevant Government departments to develop a comprehensive national framework and

Commitments	*Status*	*Next steps*
	Leone in reviewing all mining contracts and concessions	regulations on the extractive industry and trade negotiations
5. Support capacity-building initiatives for the private sector and civil society, especially women's and youth organizations, which contribute to peace consolidation, reconciliation and community-based socio-economic recovery and reconstruction	The country-specific meeting has been actively supporting the engagement of civil society and the private sector in its deliberations and has encouraged capacity-building and South-South collaboration in this area	Support the work of the Sierra Leone Business Forum and the preparations for the investment forum planned for the fourth quarter of 2008
6. Support the efforts of the Government of Sierra Leone in the area of gender mainstreaming	The Department for International Development, Irish Aid, the United Nations, the United States and others have been working on gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment. Efforts are ongoing to support the implementation of the gender bills and strengthening of the family support units	Advocate for greater participation of women in decision-making and the creation of structures for gender mainstreaming in the Government of Sierra Leone

F. Energy

Commitments	*Status*	*Next steps*
1. Marshal support for the implementation of the short-term emergency plan of the Government of Sierra Leone for electricity generation and distribution, including the restructuring of the National Power Authority and other public institutions in that sector	The European Community, the World Bank, Japan and other country-specific meeting members have been actively engaging in rehabilitation and enhancement of the sector. The Peacebuilding Commission played a convening role in bringing the Government of Sierra Leone and its partners together around the emergency energy plan and successfully advocated for greater resources for its implementation	Monitor the progress of the emergency energy plan and the completion of the Bumbuna hydroelectric power project
2. Marshal support for the enhancement and rehabilitation of the electricity generation capacity, distribution networks and transmission lines	The Peacebuilding Commission has highlighted the need for restructuring and right-sizing the National Power Authority and strengthening the capacity of the Ministry of Energy and Power	Advocate for the regular coordination meeting of energy partners created in May 2008 and led by the Sierra Leone Government and for an overall energy sector strategy

G. Subregional

Commitments	*Status*	*Next steps*
1. Provide additional technical and financial support for the revitalization of the Mano River Union, especially in fostering cross-border confidence-building and addressing common peacebuilding challenges, including at the community level	Individual members of the country-specific meeting and the United Nations have provided support to the activities of the Mano River Union, especially the Presidential Summits and the ministerial meetings	Encourage follow-up action to the commitments made at the 14 May Presidential Summit of the Mano River Union. Support the Government of Sierra Leone efforts in addressing the Yenga border issue with Guinea. Monitor the developments in the subregion
2. Provide assistance to the Mano River Union and ECOWAS in addressing cross-border issues, such as the illicit trade in small arms	Japan and the United Nations actors are working in this area; the European Community works and cooperates closely with ECOWAS	Encourage continued support for these efforts

Annex III

Implementation of the commitments of the United Nations

A. General commitments

Commitments	*Status*	*Next steps*
1. Support the implementation of the present Framework and the work of the Peacebuilding Commission	The United Nations actively worked and coordinated with the Government and all other national and international stakeholders in organizing and participating in consultative informal and formal meetings, including videoconferences with country-specific meetings and the high-level consultative meeting of 19 May, hosting visits by the Chairman of country-specific meeting and the Peacebuilding Commission membership, and preparations for the biannual review meeting of 19 June	United Nations support to be reviewed in light of the recommendations of the biannual review meeting and in light of the establishment of a United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone
2. Take into account the priorities of the present Framework in reviewing the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and related United Nations programmes and activities in the country	The United Nations Development Assistance Framework, the UNIOSIL mandate under Security Council resolution 1620 (2005) and the Peace Consolidation Strategy are complementary to and reflect the key priorities in the Peacebuilding Commission Framework	The mandate of the post-UNIOSIL United Nations presence to include key priority areas of the Peacebuilding Commission Framework, such as youth employment and empowerment
3. Enhance coordination within the United Nations system on priority peacebuilding issues	The peace consolidation strategy and UNDAF reflect the priorities of the Framework, including a conflict-sensitive programming approach	A more focused and integrated approach to be developed with the establishment of an Integrated United Nations Peacebuilding Office
4. Ensure coordination among all actors and programmes in peacebuilding to guarantee coherence and avoid duplication of efforts	The United Nations coordinated activities involving all actors, including by organizing videoconferences with country-specific meetings and disseminating and sharing information	A more systematic and regular coordination mechanism to be developed

Commitments	*Status*	*Next steps*
5. Develop and implement a peacebuilding-sensitive approach to United Nations activities and programming	The United Nations Development Assistance Framework and the Peace Consolidation Strategy promote a conflict-sensitive programming approach	Ensure all United Nations interventions are reviewed to ensure a conflict-sensitive programming approach
6. Provide continued support to initiatives and programmes promoting greater subregional cooperation and development, including through the programmes undertaken by the Economic Commission for Africa	The United Nations system provided capacity-building assistance to the Mano River Union secretariat. United Nations country teams in the Mano River Union countries and Côte d'Ivoire continue to coordinate, including in undertaking joint interventions in various areas such as youth employment and empowerment, security sector reform and human and small arms trafficking	A more coordinated and enhanced support for capacity-building of the Mano River Union